

ACE Grants Will Fund Local School Programs

by Jon Gardner

At the Greenbelt City Council meeting on Thursday, January 28, council approved 21 Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) grants to six local schools, for a total of \$9,669.25. The ACE grants are available to teachers and parent-teacher organizations from Greenbelt schools. The grants are given in response to proposals for projects or items that enhance or enrich school-based activities. The grants program is funded by the City of Greenbelt, and selection of the proposals for funding was made by council based on input from ACE.

Greenbelt Middle School was awarded six grants this year. The grants will fund a robotics club and bring in guest clinicians to work with the bands. There will be an innovative partnership with a local business in which the students create silk flowers and learn about the steps necessary to start a craft-based business. The English-Language Learners will take a field trip to the natural history museum in Washington, D.C. Other grants will support an oratory program in partnership with

See ACE, page 7

Easter Bunny Will Bring Sunday City Bus Service

by James Giese

The Easter Bunny will bring a special gift to Greenbelt transit riders this Easter Sunday, March 27. This bunny is formally known as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and its gift will be hourly or better Sunday bus service on that day and on Sundays thereafter on the C2, G12 and G14 routes. Other area routes will also be modified based upon user feedback and suggestions. Users should check the Metro website for new timetables.

The G13 and G16 routes will be combined with the G14 route for a more simplified scheduling. Route C2 will run on Sundays between the Greenbelt Metro Station and the Takoma Langley Crossroads Metro Center (not on to Twinbrook) via the University of Maryland, while the G12 and G14 routes will run between the Greenbelt and New Carrollton Metro Stations via Greenbelt.

G12

No changes are planned for this service except to add the hourly Sunday runs between 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. This route goes from the Greenbelt Metrorail station through Capitol Office Park, Boxwood Village, Greenbelt North End to Roosevelt Center, then through University Square apartments to Greenbelt Road to Greenbriar and Windsor Green before following Hanover Parkway, Princess Garden Parkway and Lanham-Severn Road to the New Carrollton Metrorail station. During moderate snow, buses will run through Capital Office Park on Cherrywood Lane instead of Ivy Lane, through Center Greenbelt on Crescent Road and Southway instead of through the North End and University Square apartments and bypass Greenbriar and Windsor Green, heading directly south on Hanover Parkway.

G14

All G13 trips will become G14 and early morning trips will

continue to bypass the Beltway Plaza shopping center. All G16 trips will become G14 and will provide evening and weekend service to Greenbelt Road east of Good Luck Road. The buses will run hourly on Sunday between 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Buses will no longer run along Forbes Boulevard and Aerospace Road due to low ridership. The buses on this route will by-pass the Beltway Plaza during moderate snow.

C2

The new Sunday service will run every 45 minutes between 8:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., but only to Langley Park from the Greenbelt Metrorail station. Greenbelt stops for this bus are only on Cherrywood Lane.

Other Routes

In College Park, route 81 will be discontinued and its Sunday runs added to route 83, but there will no longer be service to the Greenbelt Metrorail Station because route C2 will do that.

Route C8 first two morning runs (5:41 and 6:04 a.m.) will begin at the College Park Metrorail station instead of at Glenmount Metrorail station. This route stops at Archives II and goes to White Flint.

Route R3 will be discontinued and riders of that route going to Archives II will need to use the route C8 buses.

Transit users are reminded that Greenbelt residents can also ride the University of Maryland's Shuttle-UM service. For information, riders should contact the University of Maryland Transportation Services.

Metro transit representatives announced these changes to the Greenbelt City Council at a worksession held on February 3. Councilmembers and transit users in the audience, who had long advocated the Sunday bus service, were pleased to hear the announcement.

City Council Opposes Legislation On Permits, Supports Bag Fees

by Kathleen Gallagher

The 2016 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly started January 13 and will run until April 11. Over much of this period the Greenbelt City Council will review legislation that the city may have an interest in supporting or opposing, either in its own right or due to a request from one of the city's county or state elected officials. Council discussed the following four bills at its January 28 regular meeting.

Permits

A bill titled "Land Use Permit Review – Consolidation" (PG/MC 110) would replace the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) with the Prince George's County Department of Permits, Inspections and Environment (DPIE) as the source of review and approval for certain zoning and

subdivision permits. Some of the permits that would bypass M-NCPPC would include those associated with detailed site plans, subdivision plans, recreational facilities, traffic review, natural resources, historic work areas and landscaping and signage.

Planning Director Celia Craze addressed council to say the city's planning staff opposes this bill because it would eliminate the existing review of complex plans by trained planners. In addition, Park and Planning staff review plans and permits in accord with the county's very complicated zoning ordinance, at a level of review that DPIE is not equipped to handle.

Mayor Emmett Jordan expressed concern that because there are interrelated projects and bills in the works at this time, it might be preferable for the city

to wait to take action on PG/MC 110. Councilmember Judith Davis moved to oppose the bill, however, commenting that this bill "is so obviously not in the city's interest" that opposing it early in the process is important. She added that one impact of the bill would likely be to reduce the city's influence, since the city can work with Park and Planning in ways that might not be possible under the proposed process.

Zoning Permits

The second bill, titled "Land Use – Zoning Powers and Review" (PG/MC 111) is another controversial bill dealing with planning and zoning. It would restore and enhance the authority of the county council, sitting as the District Council, to review county planning board decisions.

See PERMITS, page 11

City Council, Metro and County Discuss Bus Service Changes

by James Giese

Besides receiving the good news that Sunday bus service in Greenbelt would soon be implemented (see separate story), Metro and County bus transit service representatives at a February 3 worksession reported on bus ridership, which has dropped since the advent of cold weather and customer complaints and answered questions from Greenbelt City Councilmembers. Prince George's County The Bus representatives also announced that the service was three months away from offering up-to-the-minute transit information and trip planning by means of Google web service by accessing the county website.

The Bus

Representing The Bus were Geralyn Bruce, acting traffic services manager for the Prince

George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and Anthony Foster, traffic planner. They reported that during the past eight months through December, weekly ridership on the three Greenbelt routes of The Bus (R11, R15X and R16) averaged 1,562 persons. With an average weekly ridership of 937, Route 16 carried about three times as many passengers as either of the other routes. The peak month for weekly ridership was last May, with 1,721 and the lowest ridership was in December with 1,562. On-time performance was best on Route 11 with 87 percent, and slightly worse on Route 16 with 82 percent, but Route 15X was significantly worse with 59 percent. While there was no council discussion of what the problem was with

Route 15X, Stephen Holland, a member of the audience, commented that his experience with Route 15X was that the bus was nearly always on time. Another audience member, Anna Socrates, however, complained that one driver on the R11 route was always late. Holland and Socrates were at the meeting representing TRU-G (Transit Riders United of Greenbelt). Councilmember Judith Davis commented that a traffic signal problem at Hanover Parkway and Greenbelt Road might be a causing factor.

Each county route recorded one complaint during this eight month period. On R11 the complaint was about the bus stop or shelter, on R15X it was about a bus being too early and on R16 there was a failure to stop com-

See BUS SERVICE, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, February 15

City Offices Closed in Observance of Presidents Day
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Coexisting with Beavers Community Service (See city ad for details.)

Wednesday, February 17

7:30 p.m., Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center
8 p.m., Council Worksession, Public Schools CEO Dr. Maxwell, School Board Member Grady, Community Center



An American goldfinch finds a clear feeder in the snow.

PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Letters to the Editor

From the Pantry

Generous friends enable the Pantry to assist 15 families a week.

You keep the Pantry alive! Many thanks to Neil Williamson, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Councilmember Judith Davis, Greenbriar Phases 1, 2 and 3 residents, Dr. Janet Kuhn, Norris and Eleanore Robinson, Pamela Gregory, Jordan and Eva Choper, Mishkan Torah Synagogue, Kathy Labukas, Steve Marques, Valerie Chaudery, Father Walter Toppe, St. Hugh's Church community, Brian York, James McAndrew, Huang Lee, Bob Davis of the Greenbelt Co-op and the Co-op patrons.

It's short but sweet,
It's old but new,
It's from our hearts,
It's meant for you.
Happy Valentines Day.
*Solange Hess, Chair
The Pantry*

My Take: Cracking the Code

A majority white America elected a black president – with zero experience – twice! Maybe those complaining of their shortcomings should look inward. Time to look forward, not back.
Dan Kosisky

Water Bill Issues

I would be interested in hearing from Greenbelt residents who, like me, have received unusually large water bills from WSSC in recent weeks and months. I can be reached at 301-614-0795.

Thanks you.
*Barbara Young
16-A Ridge Road
Greenbelt
bbonhamyoung@gmail.com*



GFCU Pays Bonus To Members for 2015

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union (GFCU) closed the year 2015 paying bonus dividends to its members. Bonus dividends represented 50 percent of all dividends paid to an account during 2015. They were posted to member share accounts on December 31, 2015. Cynthia A. Comproni, GFCU's general manager-treasurer, stated, "Greenbelt Federal Credit Union exists to assist and provide services to its members. GFCU is pleased that it was able to declare this bonus dividend, which recognizes and rewards its 2,800 members."

Credit unions are cooperatives. Following the principles of a cooperative, members who contribute to the success of the cooperative share in its success. Like most credit unions, GFCU returns income to its members in the form of dividends and low cost loans.



On Screen

Dumbing Down or Moral Uplift?

Trumbo comes to the Old Greenbelt Theatre this Friday, February 12. Bryan Cranston (Breaking Bad) plays the brilliant script-writer who refused to testify against his comrades in 1947 under interrogation by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC).

One of the infamous blacklisted "Hollywood Ten," Trumbo spent 11 months in federal prison, exiled himself to Mexico with his wife and children, and continued to write Oscar-winning scripts – Roman Holiday, The Brave One – under pseudonyms. Eventually Trumbo wrote Spartacus in 1960. Kirk Douglas credited him on screen and the blacklist was broken.

Diane Lane is wife to the flamboyant, boozy, prolific Trumbo. Helen Mirren is the deliciously waspish right winger Hedda Hopper. John Goodman and Elle Fanning also shine.

Some critics say that this biopic of a heroic "lefty" dumbs down the complexities of the McCarthy era, reducing the plot almost to caricature – white hats vs. black hats.

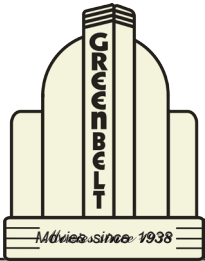
Who actually blacklisted Trumbo? HUAC or Hollywood moguls?
R. Running time: 124 minutes

Jim Link



The Greenbelt
Grasshopper

Check out the kids' section on page 11



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Adults \$9
Senior/Student \$8, Kids \$6
Members receive a \$1 discount on all shows after 5:00 PM
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES
Feb 12 – Feb 18

THE BIG SHORT
(R) (CC) (130 m.)
Fri. 6:00 PM
Sat. 6:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM (OC), 6:00 PM
Mon. 6:00 PM
Tues. 6:00 PM
Wed. 1:00 PM, 6:00 PM
Thurs. 1:00 PM

TRUMBO (R) (CC) (124 m.)
Fri. 3:30 PM, 8:30 PM
Sat. 3:30 PM, 8:30 PM
Sun. 3:30 PM, 8:30 PM
Mon. 8:30 PM
Tues. 8:30 PM
Wed. 3:30 PM, 8:30 PM
Thurs. 3:30 PM

Cult Classic Series
THE MATRIX
(R) (150 m.)
Fri. 11:00 PM

Family Series:
SPIRITED AWAY
(PG) (125 m.)
Sat. 11:00 AM



PHOTO BY MARJORIE GRAY

Footprints mark the ridge path.

Send us your photos!

The News Review would like to print more photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer, and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture. The photos may be black and white or color in the print issue but will be color in the online version. Send us no more than five photos at a time.

Check out the online photo gallery on our webpage at www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/photo-gallery/

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)

ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)

office@greenbeltnewsreview.com (general inquiries)

business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

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Assistant Editor Emeritus: Barbara Likowski 1970-

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Senior Copy Editors: Virginia Beauchamp, James Giese

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Make-up Editor: Suzanne Krofchik

Business Manager: Mary Halford

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Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Deanna Dawson and Tom Jones.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads—8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

Community Events

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of February 15 are as follows:

Monday, February 15: Happy Presidents Day – all sites closed.

Tuesday, February 16: Grape juice, minestrone soup with crackers, hot roast beef sandwich, mixed green salad with ranch dressing, fresh fruit.

Wednesday, February 17: Cranberry juice, hamburger on a bun with lettuce and tomato, cucumber-tomato salad, cherry fruit treat.

Thursday, February 18: Apple juice, baked potato with diced turkey, shredded cheese and sour cream, mixed green salad with Thousand Island dressing, wheat roll, fresh fruit.

Friday, February 19: Orange juice, potato crusted fish, lima beans, Harvard beets, wheat bread, diced pears.

Volunteer Opportunity For Eager Beavers

The Public Works Department is sponsoring another “coexisting with beavers” tree protection workday on Monday, February 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteer to protect trees from beavers and climbing English ivy. Training and tools will be provided by Public Works. Free bagels, coffee and hot cocoa will be provided thanks to Bagel Place of College Park. Remember to dress warmly and wear clothes and boots that can get dirty.

This opportunity to volunteer on Presidents Day will take place at Buddy Attick Park. Meet inside the Public Works building for orientation. Volunteers should RSVP to ejosephitis@greenbeltnmd.gov or 240-542-2168.

Philharmonic Concert Comes to Greenbelt

The Prince George’s Philharmonic is teaming up with the concert choir of the Suitland High School of the Performing Arts, performing on Saturday, February 13 at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. A repeat performance is scheduled for Sunday, February 14 at 3 p.m. at Suitland High School.

The program will include Chabrier’s popular España, as well as the Gloria by Francis Poulenc, Mozart’s Regina Coeli and Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 4.

There is an admission fee for adults, but tickets are free for those 18 or younger.

WAGS Sponsors Child Animal Safety Event

W.A.G.S. (Well-Wishers for the Animals of the Greenbelt Shelter) is holding a free Children and Animals Safety Workshop on Sunday, February 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Schrom Hills Community Park Clubhouse. The purpose of the workshop is to educate children and their parents about companion animals (dogs and cats) in general with particular emphasis on identifying an animal’s stress signals, how to approach unfamiliar animals, what to do if approached by an unfamiliar dog off leash and how to supervise and monitor children and dogs to avoid dog bites.

There will also be an opportunity to meet a Greenbelt animal control officer and learn about the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. The workshop is made possible by the Jim Cassels Community Service Award and in partnership with Your Dog’s Friend (a non-profit organization with the mission of keeping dogs out of shelters by offering workshops and training) and the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter. Register your children by sending an email to wagsgbas@gmail.com or calling 301-397-2212. There is no charge for the workshop.

Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Thursday, February 11, Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic hosted by James and Martha from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, February 12, John Guernsey plays American standards on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fractal Cats, a five-piece psychedelic rock band, performs from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 13, Bruce Kritt plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey plays jazz and blues piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The Window Panes offer up Americana, folk, rock and psychedelic rock jam music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 14, the Deaf Brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The Not2Cool Jazz Trio performs from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Night-hawks bring their smokin’ hot R&B sound to the Café from 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday, February 15, Reel and Meal from 7 to 9 p.m. with a vegan buffet offered from 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16, Poetry Night Open Mic from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17, the monthly New Deal Pub Quiz from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, February 18, Mid-Day Melodies from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic hosted by Joe Harris from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, February 19, Guernsey plays American standards on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Raquy Danziger and Dum offer up a four-piece Turkish Rhythm Celebration from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. DragonSong will open for internationally renowned Raquy. Reservations are recommended.

Saturday, February 20, Kritt plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey plays jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Just Stones, a Rolling Stones tribute band, will rock the Café from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.



The Plots Thicken

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club’s annual plot assignment meeting will take place Monday, March 7. The meeting will be held in the Community Center in Room 114 starting at 7:30 p.m. For those who had a plot in previous years and wish to retain it and are not able to attend, contact the garden coordinator. Contact Martha Tomecek at 301-614-0691 with questions.

No February Meeting For Greenbelt Writers

The Greenbelt Writers Group will not meet on Friday, February 19. Last fall, the group decided to skip the coldest month. However, keep writing as we will be meeting on Friday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The group is working on plans for their latest anthology.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will meet on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads.

The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership.

GHI Notes

Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., Investment Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, February 11, 7:30 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting, Board Room

Friday, February 12, Office closed. For emergency maintenance service, call 301-474-6011.

Monday, February 15, Office closed (Presidents Day)

Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby

Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, February 18, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room

MakerSpace Events

Friday, February 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m. – Little Makers Pre-K kids and their families work together on a fun and exciting craft project. The MakerSpace’s First Lego League Team R5 will help Little Makers create with Styrofoam. There will be foam building and foam printing available to Little Makers this week. (This community service is a requirement for their Maryland State Robotics competition.)

Saturday, February 13, 10 a.m. to noon – Robotics class, open to all ages. Participants will be doing the missions from First Lego League. Adults as well as kids are welcome and there will be advice and guidance along the way.

Tuesday, February 16, 6 to 7 p.m. – First Lego League post-season training;

7:30 to 9 p.m. – ages 12 and up to the fundamentals of Arduino programming.

Wednesday, February 17, 4 to 5 p.m. – Jr. Legos. Children ages 6 to 8 can participate in fun and exciting building challenges. There is no fee, but donations are accepted.

7 to 9 p.m. – Knit Night, for knitters, crocheters and other fiber enthusiasts.

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS
6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155
For directions visit
www.academy8theaters.com

R = ID Required
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend
* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

*Most features are \$5.50
all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D*

Week of February 12

FRIDAY – SUNDAY
Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, PG-13(!)
1:40, 4:10, 7:00
Fifty Shades of Black, R(!)
11:40, 7:20, 9:35
Kung Fu Panda 3, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20
The 5th Wave, PG-13
11:00, 2:00, 4:20, 9:50
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:20, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, PG-13(!)
1:40, 4:10, 7:00
Fifty Shades of Black, R(!)
11:40, 7:20
Kung Fu Panda 3, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7:00
The 5th Wave, PG-13
11:00, 2:00, 4:20
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:20, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10

THURSDAY

Race, PG-13(!)
7:00
Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, PG-13
1:40, 4:10, 7:00
Fifty Shades of Black, R
11:40
Kung Fu Panda, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7:00
The 5th Wave, PG-13
11:00, 2:00, 4:20
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:20, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Free and Open to the Public
GATE Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 16th at 7:30 PM in the Studio

GATe’s Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, March 13th from 3 – 5PM
Mark your calendars!

Do you have a video project that will serve or promote the Greenbelt Community?

Apply for the

Thomas X. White Memorial Scholarship!!

The winning recipient will receive a 2016 membership, training for the Canon cameras and Adobe Premiere Pro or Final Cut Pro X non-linear editing software training. GATe is now accepting applications through Mon, Feb. 29th. Guidelines are on the GATe website. The scholarship is open to all Greenbelt residents and Greenbelt organizations

See what’s showing on Comcast 77 and Verizon FiOS 19 by visiting www.greenbeltaccessstv.org and clicking on “Channel”

Greenbelt Arts Center LAST CHANCE TO SEE

ZOMBIE PROM



February 12 - February 13
Fri 2/12 at 8pm and Sat 2/13 at 2pm and 8pm

FINAL WEEKEND!

Ticket prices: \$22 General Admission, \$18 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)

COMING SOON

God: The One-Man Show - February 19 - 28 - Created by Rich Potter
Bad Jews - March 4 - 20 - Directed by Bob Kleinberg

For information & reservations, call **301-441-8770** or
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org



Former Greenbelter Joan Crompton died suddenly February 8. Joan and husband Bill moved to South Carolina several years ago. We send condolences to Joan's family and friends.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Greenbelt Community Church Pastor Glennyce Grindstaff and her husband Michael, on the death of Michael's mother, Kathryn Jane Grindstaff, in Sacramento, Calif.

Congratulations to Caitlin McGrath, who was awarded the "40 Under Forty" award by the Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund for her stellar role in helping to revitalize the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Congratulations also to Stan Zirkin, a copy editor on the News Review, who for the second year in a row was placed on the D.C. Bar Association's Honor Roll for engaging in pro bono legal work for the Employment Justice Center, a non-profit which specializes in providing advice on employment law issues to low-income workers.



Caitlin McGrath (right) and Tonia Walloons, founder and managing director, Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund.

Exploring Oral And Heart Health

Explorations Unlimited welcomes Gina Nall, Christal Washington and Traci Mason Parker from Fortis College on Friday, February 12. They will be discussing the importance of oral health as it relates to the health of the heart.

All three are students at Fortis College, working diligently to complete their studies. Each has a passion for helping others maintain their overall health. They look forward to sharing their knowledge of the importance of oral and heart health.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. This presentation will be held in room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS
Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Kudos are also in order for Denita Conway, founder and CEO of Proven Management LLC, who was recently named 2015 Woman Contractor of the Year for outstanding success in government contracting by Amer-



Denita Conway

ican Express's small business division.

Share your accomplishments, milestones or news for the next Our Neighbors column. To send information for Our Neighbors, email editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com or leave a message at 202-957-3072.

- Karen Yoho

Obituary

Regina Suter Wright

Regina Suter Wright, a longtime resident of Greenbelt, died at home on January 31, 2016, at age 88.

Regina was born March 30, 1927, in Mechanicsville, Md. She married Hoyt P. Wright, Sr. in 1951 and their marriage lasted until his death in 2008. They had four children – Hoyt Jr., Carolyn, Donna and Duane.

Mrs. Wright worked 35 years for the U.S. government at the Agency for International Development. She was a dedicated employee, a devoted wife and mother, and loved to cook.

Mrs. Wright was preceded in death by sister Pearl Williams and two brothers, Tom Suter and Gibby Young. She is survived by her sons Hoyt Wright, Jr. and Duane Wright; daughters Carolyn Wright and Donna Wright; daughters-in-law Tammy Wright and Susan Wright; sister Barbara Davis; sisters-in-law Thelma Wright and Wilma Wright; seven grandchildren, Marcus (Shellie), Erica, Orelia, Tiarra, Jerrel, Serenity and Justice; seven great grandchildren, Aaron, LeAna, Lauren, Zhyon, Eric, Owen and Kalia and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors.

A memorial service was held at St. Hugh of Grenoble on February 8.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we can. We try to include information about activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. There is no charge.



When freedom of conscience, liberty of thought & right of speech prevail...development & growth are inevitable." - Baha'i Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.greenbeltbahais.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Come worship God with us!
Sunday School 9:45AM
Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

The House I Live In At Reel and Meal

On Monday, February 15, the Reel and Meal at the New Deal film and discussion series will feature The House I Live In, Eugene Jarecki's 2012 documentary on the overuse of incarceration in the U.S. criminal justice system. The free show starts at 7 p.m.

The House I Live In tells the heart-wrenching stories of many on the front lines of the longstanding U.S. war on drugs – officers, judges, inmates and their families. The film won the U.S. documentary prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

Bob Ross of the NAACP Prince George's chapter and Nazgol Ghandnoosh from the federal-policy group the Sentencing Project will offer policy updates and lead discussion.

The Reel and Meal monthly series raises awareness about environmental, social and animal rights concerns. The Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition has planned this program; for more information contact 301-577-2350 or justpeacepg@earthlink.net.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.

Join us for Friendship Dinner Sunday at 11:30.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



February 14 10 a.m.

"Highest Office"

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Van Summers, Worship Associate

Pause to reflect on what the role of the President of the United States means—and what it doesn't.

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)

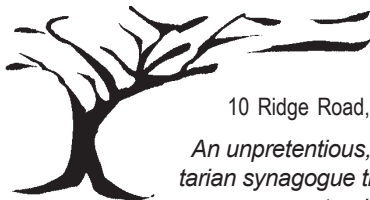
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

At the Library

All Prince George’s County Memorial Library System branches will be closed on Monday, February 15 for Presidents Day.

Weekly Storytimes

Wednesday, February 17: Preschool Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people.

Thursday, February 18: Baby Storytime, 10:15 a.m., for ages 12 to 24 months, limit 20 people; Baby Laptime Storytime, 11:15 a.m., for ages birth to 12 months, limit 20 people; Toddler Storytime, 4:15 p.m., for ages 2 to 3, limit 20 people.

Crazy8! Season 1 (Encore)

Tuesday, February 16: 4 p.m., for grades K to 2, limit 25 students; 5 p.m., for grades 3 to 5, limit 25 students. Crazy 8s is a new after-school math club designed to get kids fired up about math.

The Uncle Devin Show

Tuesday, February 16, 4:30 p.m. The Uncle Devin Show is an interactive musical experience for children that uses percussion instruments to cultivate their minds – a dynamic cross between Schoolhouse Rock and The Muppet Show.

Adult Book Discussion, Tuesday, February 16, 7 p.m. The book will be The Short and Tragical Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League by Jeff Hobbs. Customers who have read this book and want to discuss it are welcome to participate. Copies of the book may be available at the branch’s Information Desk through February 13.

Winter 2016 African History & Culture Lecture Series, Tuesday, February 16, 7 p.m. American Slavery As It Really Was: Voices of the Ancestors will be the next session in this audio-visual lecture series presented by C.R. Gibbs, renowned historian of the African diaspora.

Bibliobop Dance Party, Saturday, February 20, 10:30 a.m., ages 2 to 5. Calling all preschoolers and toddlers (and parents and caregivers) to bust a move and shake their sillies out at the Greenbelt Bibliobop Dance Party.

Read to Rover, Saturday, February 20, 2 p.m. Read to Rover is for children ages 6 to 11 to help them build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially trained therapy dogs glad to listen. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required; call the branch at 301-345-5800 for more information.



Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

Black History, Voting Demo at Meeting of Democrats

by Konrad Herling

On Friday, February 19 at 7 p.m. the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will celebrate Black History Month at the Greenbelt Community Church. The meeting will focus on the struggle to secure and maintain voting rights for African Americans. Attendees will also see a presentation by the Board of Elections demonstrating the new voting machines to be used in the state’s primary election on April 26. The new machines will yield a paper ballot.

The Club’s two speakers, Diane Braddock and Jacquelyn Shropshire, were active in the civil rights movement during difficult times. Braddock’s younger sister was one of the four young girls who were killed in the Birmingham church bombing of 1963. Braddock and Shropshire will give a closer look at the struggle to secure voting and civil rights.

A brief glimpse into a bit of history: While the 15th Amendment, approved by Congress in 1869, gave African Americans the right to vote, that right faced stern opposition for nearly a century. Tactics ranged from Jim Crow laws to outright threats and violence against citizens attempting to go to the polls to vote.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. The law permanently barred barriers to po-

litical participation by racial and ethnic minorities. It also required jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to get federal approval for changes in their election laws before they can take effect.

Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton and George W. Bush all signed extensions of the law. However, in 2013, The Supreme Court by a 5-to-4 vote, freed nine states, mostly in the South, to change their election laws without advance federal approval. Since that decision, North Carolina and Texas have passed laws that much of the civil rights community argue make it more difficult for minorities and women to vote.

So, the back-and-forth struggle continues. Following the presentation, there will be a Q and A session.

Anyone wanting to see a demonstration of the voting machines should be at the Social Hall of the Community Church by 7 p.m. to secure a seat.

For further information, contact 202-321-4207.



City Information

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee (adult member).
For information call 301-474-8000.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15, in observance of Presidents’ Day. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE
Week of February 15
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, February 19.

SPRING CAMP SPRING CIRCUS CAMP FAST BREAK

GREENBELT RECREATION CAMP PROGRAMS
Registration Ongoing

CREATIVE KIDS CAMP ENCORE **SOCCER 360 TENNIS CLAY ROCK**

www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation

CAMP PINE TREE CAMP YOGO CIRCUS CAMP

Come out and Join FIT ‘N’ FUN CARDIO
Participants experience a variety of cardio including dance, boot camp, weights and floor work set to great music! You will need to bring weights, water and a mat, jump rope is optional.
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00am-11:15am at Greenbelt Community Center
Drop-in: R: \$4, NR \$5 **Instructor: Judy Cocchiaro**

WELCOME TO THE FOUR CITIES
Come to the premiere of a new video highlighting the many positive attributes of living and working within the Berwyn Heights, College Park, Greenbelt and New Carrollton area
Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 am
Old Greenbelt Theatre at 119 Centerway
Admission is free!

MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15-19

Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, February 17 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION** with PGCPs CEO Dr. Maxwell and School Board Member Grady at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

The schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

COEXISTING WITH BEAVERS
Be part of a community service-learning event to protect trees from beavers and invasive species.

Presidents’ Day of Community Service
Monday, February 15
10:30am-1:00pm
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd.
Dress warm and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a reusable water bottle and mug for free coffee and hot cocoa
Contact ejosephitis@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2168

Greenbelt Forest Stewardship Project

VISIT OUR ADOPTABLE PETS

Greenbelt Animal Shelter
550-A Crescent Road
301-474-6124
Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm

Lucy is a long-haired tuxedo female cat. She had to have one eye surgically removed because it was ulcerated and causing her pain. Lucy has a scrappy personality and is definitely the boss of Room 1, but she does show her sweet side now and then, and she loves to play and bat at things. Visit Lucy and all her friends at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! See pets at www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter

GROUP DESIGNATION APPLICATIONS

For FY 17 the City of Greenbelt’s Contribution, Recognition and Civic Group applications are now available online at www.greenbeltmd.gov. Please contact the Recreation Department at 301-397-2200/gvarada@greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

For more information on City Activities, Services and Events, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov
Follow cityofgreenbelt on Facebook!
We are also on Twitter and Instagram at @cityofgreenbelt

Commentary

Future Shock: Author Drinks Bathwater

by Cathie Meetre

Approximately 25 years ago, after a dozen years of living in Greenbelt, this same (but significantly younger) author published a News Review article detailing a systems engineering analysis she had undertaken on determining where she should live in the far distant future when she was retired and aging (gracefully, of course). She analyzed her future requirements in terms of community resources, transportation needs, availability of medical care and proximity to friends and family; extrapolated out and racked and stacked the characteristics of the Greenbelt solution and determined – with a reluctance due to itchy feet and a feeling of being less than enterprising – that she had moved to the ideal retirement community some decades ahead of need.

Time has passed and the future, as they say, is now. Remarkably, one millennium segued smoothly to the next and while one might say (as Shakespeare did over 400 years ago) that society has gone from bad to worse, the world is going to the dogs

and young people don’t know half what we did at their age. Here your faithful correspondent remains still in Greenbelt but now retired and thus drinking her own predictive bathwater.

Was she right? Has it turned out as she supposed it would? The predictions based on her analysis seem to be borne out by observation. Greenbelt remains a great place to live, rich in resources and opportunities. Community activities have, if anything, increased in range and scale. In 1990 (it seems only yesterday as older people are wont to say) there was no New Deal Café and no Farmers Market. Chris Cherry wasn’t writing plays for youngsters to act and circus camp was not even a dream. MakerSpace wasn’t roboticizing and who knew from a Coder Dojo? The Greenbelt Museum had only been open since 1987. The indoor pool wasn’t built. No FONDCA – whatever did we do with ourselves?

Perhaps it is fair to say, therefore, that she was right in her analysis. But it took a lot of

people to make it that way and no backsliding, thank you. Every day creates anew the task of keeping to the standards and values that keep the city healthy. Just as energy and foresight can make a city great, poor management and citizen apathy can tear it apart at the seams. But here we live in a city that continues to regale its citizens with leisure activities that include original plays and ballets, pools, theater, music, movies, festivals, markets and parades. It pays attention to public safety. Its parks and streets are well kept. Its buildings are maintained and open for business. Its staff is energetic, enthusiastic and principled. The city, in turn, gets help from a community that relentlessly turns up to be counted and puts in its two cents – and then keeps putting them in.

Your author still has her perennially itchy feet – but here she is, still living in Greenbelt. Because, just as it was a terrific place to live when she was a twenty-something – it still is today when she’s a sixty-something. And every-something in-between.

BUS SERVICE continued from page 1

plaint. Bruce noted that there could also have been unrecorded complaints. Riders can call the county transit office using a number posted in buses and on the county website. While a recording may put a caller temporarily on hold, the complaint will be taken by a live person.

Metrobus

For the eight routes serving Greenbelt, Metrobus ridership was also the highest for the eight-month period from May to December (16,088 weekly riders) and the lowest in December at 13,971. Overall, this represented slight growth increases on the R11, R12 and G12 routes: there was no change on the other G routes and slight declines on the C2 and C4 routes.

Average on-time performance for the Metrobus Greenbelt routes was the best on the R11 and G12 routes at 93 and 92 percent and the worst on the C2 and C4 routes at 75 percent. Other routes were 85 percent or better. Another statistical measure reported was on-time transfers between routes. This took place 88 percent of the time. No prior time statistics were provided that might have been useful to determine if service is improving or not.

Rider complaints for all the lines serving Greenbelt varied from month to month during the eight month period with the most complaints (46) occurring in September and the fewest (30) in May. According to the data provided, but not calculated, the highest number of complaints was made on the G12 route, the route between the Greenbelt and New Carrollton Metrorail stations that winds its way through the city. This is particularly significant since that route had the lowest number of riders. A breakdown of the complaints was not provided to the council and there was no discussion at the meeting about why complaints were so high. The complaints were highest during the four summer months and are at about a third of the rate for October to December. For other routes, the number of complaints on a route seemed more directly related to the number of riders using the route.

New Buses

At the worksession, Hershen told the council that there would

be a lot of new buses by the end of the calendar year with many being hybrid buses. By then, the red, white and blue buses will be phased out of service. In Greenbelt, all buses to be used will be either hybrid or diesel. The current buses are either 40 or 60 feet long, and the replacement buses will be the same lengths.

When queried, Hershen said that compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled buses were not being added to the fleet. To do so, Metro must first build a new garage in addition to the two garages it already has. To service the CNG buses, a garage must have special safety and ventilation features and be able to connect to a large gas supply line. Hershen said a new garage would require a \$40 million investment.

Bruce told the council that The Bus equipment measured 35 to 40 feet in length. The newest buses were put in service in 2012. She added that maybe 12 buses serve Greenbelt, possibly more during peak hours of usage.

Hershen said that persons with complaints can either email Metro or telephone. When concern was expressed over possible false claims against drivers, Hershen noted that all buses have video recorders so that the validity of a complaint can be determined. Also to protect drivers, the new buses will be equipped with driver shields, although Hershen said some drivers did not like having them.

Asked what would happen to the old buses, Hershen said that they would be easy to get rid of; that there was a good market for selling them.

Other Matters

Holland said that TRU-G was seeking an added stop for G14 Metro buses on Greenbelt Road at Lakecrest Drive.

Mayor Emmett Jordan noted the need for more service to the new apartments and homes now being built in the South Core of Greenbelt Station.

Jordan also urged that revised plans for the Greenbelt Metrorail station enable buses to drop off and pick up closer to the station entrance.



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Costumes, props and sets are the focus in the Production Design Highlights from the Greenbelt Recreation Department. The exhibit runs through March 25 in the Community Center.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, Feb. 14th & Wednesday, Feb. 17th
Beginning at 8 PM

“Music of the Brain (2010)” and
“Oxygen for the Ears”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels



Greenbelt Nursery School
Open House
Registration for Fall 2016
Saturday, February 20, 10 am – 1 pm

Classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4
Two, three, and five days a week. Low child to staff ratio.
Full day educational programs available.

Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road
301-474-5570 www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org

 Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs



ACE continued from page 1

Ford's Theatre and the purchase of wood-frame display boards for the school's National History Day exhibits.

Seven grants were approved for Springhill Lake Elementary School. Three of the grants will enhance the physical activity for students with a bike-riding program, sports equipment to be used during recess and a set of trampolines that will be used by the teacher of adapted physical education for students who have particular physical needs. Funding will link students in the talented and gifted program with those in the special education program to build birdhouses. The school's first graders will get activity centers and software to help with reading. Finally, all students in the schools will receive pencils and other incentives to encourage them to do well on tests.

Greenbelt Elementary School received three grants. Fourth graders will get a set of board games, such as Scrabble and Boggle, to improve literacy. Second graders will write poems and make puppets to act out their poems. Students in the third grade will create a life science journal that includes drawings of plants, connecting art and science.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School received three grants. The Pep Band will get help purchasing uniform jackets to allow them to play at outdoor games. The advanced physics classes will get individual student whiteboards for use in solving problems. Funding will enable The Raider Review, the student newspaper, to print paper editions, helping students to learn the differences between online and paper journalism.

The Dora Kennedy French Immersion School is participating in the ACE grants program for the second time. The school will receive two grants. One grant will be used to purchase chess sets and other board games for use in an after-school club and at Family Fun nights. The other will purchase a table and chairs for the school media center that are sized for the smallest students. When the school took over the old Greenbelt Middle School building last year, the furniture in the media center was not sized for the younger students.

This is the seventh year that Greenbelt has distributed ACE grants to the local schools; in all there have been 125 proposals funded for up to \$500 each.

Jon Gardner is a member of ACE.

Legion Post 136 Hosts Veterans Commission



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

At the Maryland Veterans Commission event held at the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136, (from left) Jeffery Kendrick, MCVET executive director, and Sandi Dutton, president of the MCVET Board of Directors, discuss veterans support with Maryland Veterans Commission Chairperson Fred Shinbur and host for the event, Mike Moore, Commander, Greenbelt American Legion.

Proposed veterans issues contained in legislation before the Maryland General Assembly and a presentation on the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) in Baltimore were topics included in the January Maryland Veterans Commission quarterly meeting in Greenbelt at American Legion Post 136. The organization, whose members are appointed by Governor Lawrence Hogan, travel quarterly to various sites across Maryland to discuss veterans support activities and issues and then provide updates to the governor.


Fred Shinbur, chairperson of the Maryland Veterans Commission, said adult education and literacy and workforce development were among 14 veterans bills being addressed by the Maryland legislature. He said those bills also included having driver's licenses identify veterans, displaying the veterans Missing in Action flag along with the National colors, and developing a Maryland Prisoner of War medal.

Sandi Dutton, past National President of the American Legion Auxiliary and MCVET Board of


Directors president, told the gathering that the MCVET programs are helping to heal veterans who have, through poor life choices, alcoholism and drug addiction, become homeless and in need of help to recover, become a whole person, and reintegrate into society. "MCVET provides the tools to help veterans heal themselves inside and out," Dutton said.

MCVET was established in 1993 and its Baltimore location now operates four housing programs. More information may be found at www.mcvet.org.

LOVE NOTES
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See if there is
a special message
for you
on page 16.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2016


GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 7:30 PM

GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Review the Companion Animal Committee's Charter
- 2016 HIP Building Envelope Contract, 1st Reading
- 2016 HIP Electrical Contract, 1st Reading
- 2016 HIP HVAC Contract, 1st Reading
- 2016 HIP Masonry Crawlspace Contract, 1st Reading
- Extension of Deadline for Submitting Fee Deferral Applications
- Financing HIP Optional Improvements Through GHI's Approved Lenders
- Request Legislative and Government Affairs Committee to Assess Impact of Zoning Rewrite on GHI
- Proposed Agenda for the March 13th Membership Townhall Meeting
- 2016 Gutter Cleaning Contract, 1st Reading
- Contract for Designing Drainage System and Parking Lot Improvements, 1st Reading

Regular Board meetings are open to Members

For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop



To request a sign language interpreter for this meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Celebrate
Black History
Month with Us!

Friday
February 19, 2016
7:00 PM



Young Jacquelyn (Jackie) and Goldie Frinks, alde to Dr. Martin Luther King.

IN MEMORY OF



THEIR LIVES WERE TAKEN BY UNKNOWN PARTIES ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1963 WHEN THE SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH WAS BOMBED.

A plaque honors those slain in Birmingham, AL.

A look back and
into the future...

Ordinary People and the
Civil Rights Movement

GUEST SPEAKERS

Jacquelyn Shropshire

Youngest civil rights leader in her hometown of Williamston, NC.

Dianne Braddock

Older sister of one of the four girls who died in the Birmingham church bombing 1963.



Brought to you by
Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt
Democratic Club of Greenbelt
www.RooseveltClub.com

Demonstration of
new voting machines
will precede guest
speakers.

Community Church of
Greenbelt
1 Hillside Road
Greenbelt, Maryland
(301) 474-6171

Come hear
ordinary citizens
talk about their
experiences!

Light refreshments will be served

Rain Garden Workshop Looks at Home Stormwater Problems

by Erin Josephitis

Most are familiar with the three R's of solid waste management: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Yet, many are unaware of the three S's of stormwater runoff management: Slow it down, Spread it out, Soak it in. Slowing down the flow of stormwater minimizes erosion and flooding dangers. Spreading out stormwater decreases its speed. Allowing stormwater to soak into the ground filters contaminants and restores underground aquifers.

On Saturday, January 30 the first of a series of rain garden workshops was held at Greenbelt Public Works. Over 40 participants attended the free workshop to learn how to assess a property for stormwater problems and opportunities for remediation. A virtual stormwater audit taught participants to distinguish pervious from paved areas starting at the perimeter of the property and ending at the location of the home or building.

The virtual stormwater audit process identified common problems, including broken pavement, compacted soil, erosion, flooding, clogged gutters, seeping groundwater, ponding, run on and runoff. Some of the solutions to these stormwater issues are amending soils, cleaning gutters, stabilizing slopes, planting trees, installing a rain cistern, rain barrel, rain garden, green roof or permeable pavement.

Residents of Prince George's County are invited to play a role in the community efforts of installing "Rain Check," approved stormwater management practices that reduce and improve the quality of stormwater runoff as well as the health of local waterways. Homeowners, business and non-profit entities (including housing cooperatives and churches) are able to recoup some of the costs

of installing practices covered by the program. Eligible practices include cisterns, green roofs, pavement removal, permeable pavement, rain barrels, rain gardens and urban tree canopy.

As residents and businesses install watershed runoff solutions on their properties in Greenbelt, the Green Team's Pathways of Sustainability aims to collect an inventory of these practices and locations. The ultimate goal of the Pathways of Sustainability is to create a connected wildlife corridor of pollinator-friendly rain gardens, food forests and more. Readers can contribute to the Green Team's Pathways of Sustainability inventory online at goo.gl/forms/9qO1CvBAB8.

The next rain garden workshop will take place on February 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Greenbelt Public Works. Participants will take a tour of local rain gardens, view displays and talk with local landscapers. The final rain garden clinic will take place on March 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Greenbelt Public Works. Participants will get real-time help with rain garden designs and Rain Check Rebate application. Contact Erin Josephitis at ejosephitis@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2168 to reserve your space.

The series of rain garden workshops are sponsored by Prince George's Department of the Environment in partnership with the City of Greenbelt, Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC), Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group and Friends of Still Creek.



The Public Works Department was full of rain garden workshop participants.

Photos by Erin Josephitis

Below left: Deborah Weller of Prince George's County Department of the Environment teaches participants about residential techniques to stormwater problems.
Below right: Rain Garden Workshop Check In Table.



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a special message
for you
on page 16.

Two Planned Communities, Two Different Outcomes

by Lesley Kash

Greenbelt, Maryland and Greenhills, Ohio were two of the three green towns built by the federal government in the late 1930s. In the early 1950s, residents of each community bought the housing from the federal government and set off on different paths into the future. Sixty years down those divergent paths, the condition of the aging, historic housing stocks reflects the choices made.

In Greenhills, where housing, including multi-family buildings, are owned individually and rentals are the norm, deferred maintenance has led to deterioration and demolitions. By contrast, the Greenbelt housing cooperative is beginning its second comprehensive renovation of the entire original cooperative member-occupied historic housing stock. What happened in each city, and why?

Different Decisions

Greenhills and Greenbelt were model planned suburban communities designed to provide garden-surrounded housing for working families. They became national treasures, according to Patrick Kerin, president-elect of Greenhills' Historical Society. "They are exemplars of innovative town planning, superb construction and graceful design that continue to be studied by planners both in the U.S. and overseas."

When, by order of Congress in 1952, the Green Towns were sold, Greenbelt residents formed a housing cooperative (later renamed Greenbelt Homes Inc., GHI) to purchase the homes and mandated member-occupancy. By contrast, Greenhills' residents formed a homeowners association to buy their homes, leaving individual property owners free to rent out their homes.

Differences

In Greenbelt, the cooperative structure, based on mutual ownership of all the homes, allowed and obligated GHI to maintain all the co-op homes. This permanent responsibility has included a wide range of work, described on GHI's website, ranging from individual repairs as needed to comprehensive community upgrade of structural components (insulation, windows, siding/asbestos removal, heat systems, roofing, etc.) as performed in the late 1970s/early 1980s. GHI responsibilities also include oversight and approval of any changes to the appearance or structure of the original homes.

Greenhills' owners were left on their own to maintain, change or neglect their units. Deterioration set in over time. Greenhills began a long struggle to deal with the consequences: vacancies, foreclosures, community conflict and demolitions.

"Despite its history as an attractive and successful suburban community in which to live and raise families, the Village of Greenhills, Ohio, began to feel its age in the 1990s," explained the O'Keeffe public relations firm on its webpage last month. "Many of its original dwellings began to deteriorate – the result of age and neglect by absentee landlords. A small portion of the historic buildings could be saved, but the majority were too far gone – riddled with termites or asbestos – and unfit for habitation. After much struggle and consultation with experts on rehabilitating the historic structures, the Village

bought as many of the privately owned dwellings as it could and decided to raze the dilapidated structures and replace them with new housing stock aimed at attracting new residents.



PHOTO BY MATT JOHNSON

While many of the original Greenhills rowhouses deteriorated and were demolished, the village has successfully rehabbed and sold or rented a number of properties. Greenhills has been labelled one of Ohio's most endangered historic places.

Demolitions

"As of early 2008, officials had purchased 135 dwellings, 20 percent of the Historic District's original 676 residential units. Of the unique building types found only in the targeted neighborhoods, 52 units had been razed," Preservation Ohio stated, explaining Greenhills' inclusion on their 'most endangered sites' list. "Insensitive infill, modern renditions of 1900s Bungalow and American Foursquares, replaced the forward-thinking International and Moderne Styles of the 1938 originals. New stand-alone single family houses were packed into the footprints of the original historic stacked apartments and townhouses. Unfortunately, little has changed in Greenhills, although groups, including the Cincinnati Preservation Association, are continuing to promote its preservation. ... A number of Village-owned buildings continue to deteriorate and there is no viable plan for their reuse, however."

"The village has successfully rehabbed and sold a number of properties or rents them to tenants at market rates," says Kerin. "However, the village also embarked on a campaign of teardowns and redevelopment. Fifty-two units were removed from the original housing stock of Greenhills. New construction also occurred in one section of the village. These teardowns and the section of new development have been problematic and generated considerable controversy at both the local and national level. The level of concern led Preservation Ohio, an independent historic preservation organization within the state, to label Greenhills one of Ohio's most endangered historic places in 2010, 2011 and 2012."

New Deal Architecture Faces Bulldozer, a New York Times article of February 8, 2009, by Tracy Rozhon, reported the Greenhills' demolitions. "Where the demolished apartments stood, there are now several vacant lots and nine new single-family houses, priced at more than \$200,000;

many of these are still for sale. Jane A. Berry, the municipal manager, bought one but conceded the new houses were built too close to each other. "We're trying to attract families," and

there's not even room for a swing set," she said.

"While there are no current written plans to demolish more buildings, the village council reserves its right to do so," the article stated. "And so 10 residents, including Betty Senior, a retired teacher, together bought one of the threatened rundown apartments and fixed it up, just to show what could be done."

Efforts have since been proposed for planning, zoning or regulation in the interest of historic preservation, including a grant program currently featured on the Village of Greenhills municipal website. These are modest grants, only for exterior home repairs, and only for owner-occupants.

"At this point in time I am cautiously optimistic about the future of historical preservation in Greenhills, but still wary," says Kerin. "I believe the problems surrounding redevelopment in the village have had a tempering effect and fostered some degree of reassessment of earlier plans, but there is still concern about future demolition."

In Contrast

GHI's board of directors, after the first rehabilitation 30-plus years ago, began collecting replacement reserve contributions (as part of monthly co-op fees) to fund future replacement of core components in the homes. As a result, many of the needed replacements are already pre-

funded, according to Steve Skolnik, GHI president.

"The Home Improvements Program is finishing a five-year pilot test program aimed at finding durable and affordable solutions and sources for these replacements," Skolnik said. "Details of the coming multistage rehabilitation project have been discussed and negotiated by committees, the board of directors and the membership. Financing was approved by membership vote, though objections have recently been raised by some to the cost and the collective nature of the project."

Kerin advises, "As Greenbelt considers its own historic properties, I would encourage most of all a constructive dialogue in which all participants carefully listen to one another. Aside from the loss of original buildings in Greenhills, another painful aspect has been the rancor and bitterness this controversy had engendered. I would also encourage everyone to consider how future generations will regard the decisions made now."



PHOTO COURTESY OF URBAN OHIO

Greenhills has an outdoor community pool.



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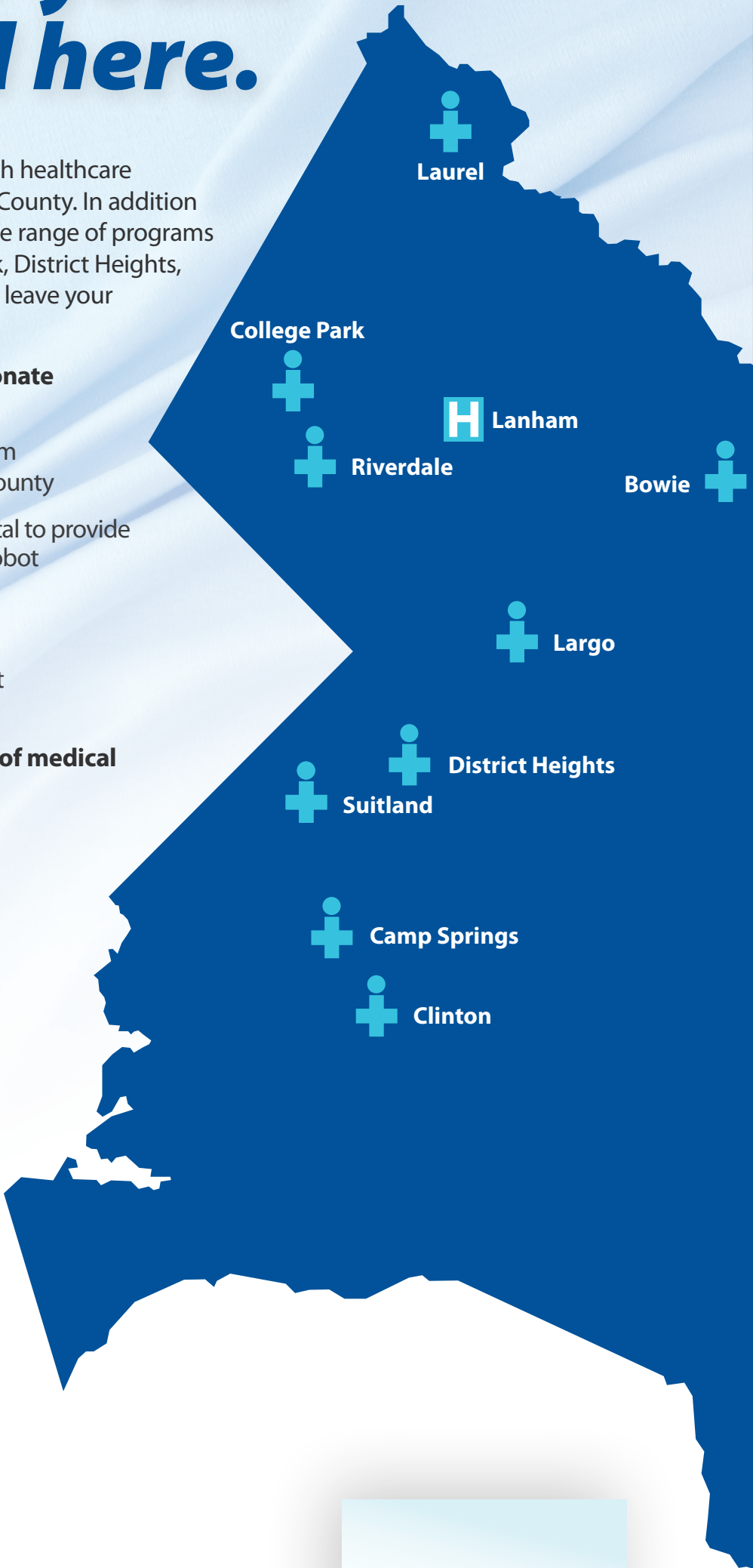
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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Update
An arrest warrant has been obtained for sex offenses reported June 18, charging a 29-year-old nonresident man with second-, third- and fourth-degree sexual contact. The warrant has been turned over to the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Department to serve it on the man.

Fraud
February 2, 7:39 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A man contacted a woman by phone, posing as an investigator with the Department of Justice. He said her personal identity information and computer had been compromised and in order to continue the investigation he needed her checking and credit card information. He then used that information to take money from both her bank and credit card account.

Theft
January 28, 4:32 p.m., 7800 block Walker Drive. A cellphone was removed from a parcel package delivered to a business.

January 30, 2 p.m., 99 Centerway. An unattended cellphone was taken at the Youth Center.

February 1, 4:03 p.m., 6900 block Hanover Parkway. A witness saw a man attempting to force open a mailbox in the hallway of a condominium building. He is described as black, approximately 40 years old, 5’7” tall, 160 pounds and bald, wearing glasses. He fled in a vehicle described as a silver 4-door Toyota Camry with Maryland tags.

Trespass
January 28, 5:05 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 16-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested for trespass after she was found in Beltway Plaza after having been banned from the mall by agents of the property. She was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

January 29, 6:10 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 27-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespass after he was found in Beltway Plaza after having been banned from the mall by agents of the property. He was released on citation to the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Department for service of the warrant.

Counterfeit Money
February 2, 1:32 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. Two residents, one 21 years old and

the other 14, were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and possession of counterfeit money when officers responded to a report of a fight. The adult was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner and the youth was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

Burglary
January 28, 7:50 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive. Two nonresidents, one 19 years old and the other 20, were arrested and charged with burglary and possession of marijuana after they were found inside a vacant apartment. They were transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

January 30, 2 p.m., 200 block Lakeside Drive. Car keys were taken after a residence was entered by way of an unlocked front door.

Vehicle Crime
A white 2007 Ford F250 Super Cap pickup truck with Md. tags 7CB383, with a snowplow attachment, was stolen from the 9100 block Edmonston Road on January 30. Also on that date, an attempt was made to steal a vehicle in the 6100 block Springhill Terrace, by tampering with the ignition system and damaging it. Rear Md. tag 7AM6866 was taken in the 6000 block Cherrywood Court on February 1.

The gas line of a vehicle in the 100 block Westway was damaged on January 29. On February 3, tires were slashed on two vehicles in the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace on February 3, three tires on one vehicle and four on the other.

IRS Impersonators
Residents are warned to be on the look-out during tax season for calls or emails, claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service and demanding immediate payment, usually by cash, prepaid debit cards, money orders or wire transfers from the resident’s banks. The IRS does not contact citizens by phone for payment. Anyone who has experienced this type of crime should contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

MD Offers Home Energy Assistance

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) energy efficiency programs are designed to help low-income Marylanders save money on utility bills; improve the comfort, health and safety of their homes; and repair or replace non-functioning heating systems.

Through the program, a home energy analyst will visit the home to conduct a comprehensive whole-house assessment of energy and health- and safety-related issues. Applicants must meet income and other eligibility requirements. Using state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, including blower door, carbon monoxide and heat system testing and infrared scans, the analyst will develop a full-service, energy-efficient retrofit scope of work to be implemented by an authorized weatherization company.

DHCD also offers evaluations and corrective services to address lead paint, mold, asbestos, roofing issues and light rehab/structural issues, and can assist in the repair or replacement of nonfunctioning heating systems for qualifying individuals.

To be eligible for these programs, a resident’s household income must be equal to or less than the equivalent of 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For a one-person family unit, the maximum annual household income is \$23,540; for a two-person family, \$31,860; three-person, \$40,180; four-person, \$48,500; five-person, \$56,820; six-person, \$65,140; seven-person, \$73,460 and eight-person, \$81,780.

For more information, visit dhcd.maryland.gov/Website/Programs/lieep or call 855-583-8976.

PERMITS continued from page 1

Recent Case
A recent court case found that the District Council has authority to review planning board decisions only on appeal, which dramatically reduces the council’s range of authority in reviewing any or all decisions. The proposed bill would take the zoning powers of both the planning board and the board of appeals and vest them in the District Council.

Craze told council that city planning staff also recommend opposing this bill. Since the beginning of zoning in 1920, she said, the model has been that an apolitical planning body makes zoning decisions, with the elected body then playing a role in the appeals process. That system also provides what she called a “citizen-friendly” process for individuals to go to the District Council and appeal matters at no cost, a recourse that would also be eliminated.

Jordan said he was inclined to oppose the bill but suggested waiting until the next regular meeting to act in deference to County Councilmember Todd Turner. Other councilmembers agreed to wait. Councilmember Edward Putens said he was willing to wait but would like the city manager to convey to Turner that at this time council was inclined to strongly oppose the bill.

Bag Fee
“County Disposable Bag Fee” (PG 404) is similar to legislation Greenbelt has supported for years. It provides that a fee of no more than five cents per bag be charged for the use of disposable plastic bags. The bill would apply only in Prince George’s County. The city council discussed this bill at its January 11 meeting and postponed action

until the next meeting because of disagreement among councilmembers about the implications of language in the bill indicating that the county would charge the retailer rather than the noncompliant shopper.

Assistant City Manager David Moran said upon looking into the matter further, he had seen that the language had not changed at all from the bills the city council had supported previously. He also emphasized a point made by Davis at the prior meeting: that this bill was merely enabling and that the specifics of how it would work would be dealt with later at the county level. With those clarifications, Councilmember Silke Pope moved support of bill, which carried 6 to 1 with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposing.

The “Community Cleanup and Greening Act” (SB 57/HB31) would establish a bag fee of 10 cents statewide on both plastic and paper disposable carryout bags. Stores could keep either five cents or seven cents, depending on whether they have a customer bag credit program. The balance would go to the county to be used for various environmental purposes. Davis moved that council support the bill with an amendment to say that any revenues collected within a municipality must be returned to that municipality. This motion also carried on a 6 to 1 vote with Roberts opposing. He explained that he opposes bills to collect fees for bag use rather than an outright ban because once a revenue flow is created for counties or municipalities, they will have no motivation to ban the bags altogether.



The Greenbelt Grasshopper

Joke of the Week

Question: What do you call a very small Valentine?
Answer: A Valentiny!

Trivia Time:

Kids aged 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine’s Day cards with their teachers, classmates and family members.

WORD SEARCH

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O N M Y L L R O Q E I F I
N D C H O C O L A T E S N
I Y X C W U S V B T N D K
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Council Meets with Mack-Cali, Capital Office Park Reps

by Diane Oberg

As the first snow of the week fell on January 20, the Greenbelt City Council met with representatives of the Mack-Cali Realty Corporation, the owner of Capital Office Park, in one of their periodic stakeholders meetings. Mack-Cali is a real estate investment trust headquartered in New Jersey. Council asked for general updates, followed up on issues discussed at the previous meeting with the company and looked for ways that they could help users of the office park.

The occupancy rate at the office park is now 72 percent, according to John O’Hearn, vice president for leasing. Councilmember Judith Davis recalled that at their last meeting two years ago, the rate was 65 percent, so this was good news. He said that his company prefers a mix of tenants, as they have now, rather than one or two large tenants. He described his experience with a property in New York City where they had a large lease with a financial company. When that company left during the 2009 financial crisis, their commercial property portfolio tanked. Having a mix of tenants reduces that risk.

While O’Hearn would prefer a higher occupancy rate, he would not necessarily want to take it all

the way to 100 percent. He said he is much more concerned with tenant retention. The company’s retention rate is roughly 87 percent. In Capital Office Park they have the flexibility to adjust as tenants ramp their operations up and down.

No Residential

While Mack-Cali got into transit-oriented multi-family housing property through a 2012 acquisition, O’Hearn said he would not consider converting office space to residential use. Beyond zoning issues, residential use could also conflict with the current commercial activities. He would look at their undeveloped land before converting existing office space.

Nor are they likely to introduce a cooperative child care facility, as Councilmember Leta Mach inquired. While agreeing that it would be a useful amenity, O’Hearn said the buildings are not designed to accommodate childcare requirements, such as a ground floor location with direct access to a fenced-in play yard not adjacent to a parking lot. When Mach suggested the use of trailers to accommodate childcare (eliciting objections from some of her colleagues), O’Hearn doubted that there was a suitable location on the property but agreed to

look into whether this amenity could be provided.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Emmett Jordan asked about using vacant parking areas to provide space for additional amenities. O’Hearn noted that with the trend towards decreasing the amount of space allocated per employee, parking needs are increasing, not decreasing. If he took away parking spaces, he would not have enough spaces to support his goal of decreasing the vacancy rate at the office park.

When asked about provision for bicycles, O’Hearn said that they cannot allow bicycles in the building, although they have installed a bicycle rack and will look into bike lockers. The elevators are too small and bicycles present a potential liability. Councilmember Edward Putens added that bicycles can present a security concern as they cannot be scanned.

Council was very interested in O’Hearn’s and Property Manager Mike Hueston’s assessment of the business environment and outlook. O’Hearn’s first response was to note his surprise at how proactive Greenbelt is for businesses. Despite his five million square foot office portfolio in New Jersey, he said he has never

had a meeting like this meeting with council.

Davis asked for an update on the energy efficiency improvements discussed at the last stakeholder meeting. O’Hearn said that they had obtained Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for one of their tenant areas. They have also obtained Energy Star Certification for one building and are close to meeting the standard in several others.

Jordan asked O’Hearn for his vision of what might happen over the next five years, such as whether he envisions any upgrades. O’Hearn said that he had no specific answer. His goal is to lease more space and to create value by adding amenities and dressing up the property but that they must gauge the market. Mack-Cali has looked at various things but he could not say what they would do.

Another follow-up involved Mack-Cali’s request for a mid-block sidewalk across Ivy Lane. Council had requested a letter that does not appear to have been sent. Davis urged Hueston to send the letter and suggested requesting speed humps on either side of the crosswalk to increase pedestrian safety, as was done at

the traffic circle at Metro Drive. Hueston committed to sending such a letter, calling the circle by Metro great, as it slowed people down, increasing safety. When asked about transportation to the station, Hueston said that many people take The Bus or the Metrobus to the station. In response to a council question, he said that there were no bus shelters in this area.

Also discussed were ways to increase cooperation between the city and Mack-Cali, such as the company participating in the city’s quarterly business coffees and council participating in the omelet breakfasts and Baskin Robbins days they host for tenants. The city will also provide information on city amenities, including the trail from the office park to the lake park and other recreational opportunities that may fit into the company’s marketing efforts. They may also host a get-together between the office park and city officials to discuss the various city services available.



Greenbelt Shelter’s Dubious No Kill Claim

The City of Greenbelt, on its website, has claimed that Greenbelt Animal Control (which includes the shelter) operates a No Kill shelter. This claim appears on the No Kill Network’s website listing of No Kill shelters in Maryland. City Manager Michael McLaughlin, in his response to an inquiry regarding the claim, responded that the animal shelter has a Live Release Rate (LRR) of 98%.

We investigated this claim and contend that it is false. Subsequent to our investigation and publication of our findings, the shelter’s website was changed to describe it as “No Kill *for Convenience*.” “No Kill” already means no animals are killed for convenience; it is not clear what obscure message the City is trying to create.

By advertising itself as a No Kill organization (or a No Kill for Convenience organization), Greenbelt Animal Control claims to adhere to a strict, compassionate standard for animals placed in its care, garnering more community support, increased donations, and trust of citizens.

A "No Kill" shelter is an animal shelter that does not kill healthy or treatable animals even when the shelter is full, reserving euthanasia for terminally ill animals or those considered dangerous to public safety. A commonly-used minimum benchmark for claiming to be No Kill is a 90% Live Release Rate, which allows more than sufficient allowance for animals who are too incurably sick, injured, or aggressive to be adopted out. Under ASPCA guidelines, a “Live Release” includes adoptions, returns-to-owner, and transfers to outside rescue groups or agencies that *guarantee* adoption. The 90% minimum benchmark is merely an objective measure that any No Kill shelter would be expected to meet or pass; even if a shelter has a LRR of more than 90%, it is not a No Kill shelter if it kills animals who are not terminally ill or dangerous.

Using documents obtained by a public records request to the City (including a ledger used to record all animals coming into and leaving the shelter, return-to-owner records, adoption records (adopter information redacted to protect privacy), transfer records, and death records), we calculated the shelter’s LRR to be between 49% and 83% over the 18-month period from January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (the percentage depends on how generously one interprets the records received; for instance whether crediting the shelter for an animal marked as adopted in a ledger book, but without a corresponding adoption contract). The actual LRR is far short of both the 98% reported by McLaughlin, and the 90% which is a commonly-used minimum benchmark for claiming to be No Kill.

Reporting and recording deficiencies are widespread. In addition to the absence of adoption records for many claimed adoptions, many adoption records that were produced lack a description of the animal; lack an adopter signature; and/or lack a date (to verify that the adoption relates to the period studied). Additionally, for 9 of 10 animals killed at the shelter, the reason for the killing was not shown in the documents provided. Moreover, animals were received by and transferred out of the shelter without any recording at all. Through a public records request to the Prince George’s County Animal Management Division (AMD), we discovered that during the same 18-month period, 17 dogs and cats were received by and transferred from the City to the County shelter (which is not a No Kill shelter). None of these transfers were recorded in the City’s ledger or supported by any transfer paperwork from the City. All of the above records, if they existed, were part of our documents request. (The City has responded that in these cases they could not verify that the animal was in or belonged to a City resident, and such animals are therefore the county’s problem. County records showed that one of these transferred animals, a dog, was returned to a City resident. Also, contradicting the City’s response, records from the County listed the reason for the transfer of 3 dogs to be lack of space at the City shelter.)

So far this issue appears to have received little interest with the council or the City manager; neither seems to be particularly concerned about the dogs, cats, and other animals that come into the care and custody of the City animal shelter, the widespread reporting deficiencies, or about the dubious “No Kill” or “No Kill for Convenience” claims. The residents of Greenbelt and the State deserve more diligence and accountability in the City’s government.

Brian Almquist

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Schools’ Budget Proposal Questions Are Answered

by Gabriela Martínez

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) explained its proposed \$2 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and answered questions about it at a meeting held at the Greenbelt Community Center on February 4.

The event was organized by the Prince George’s County Advocates for Better Schools (PG-CABS), a group of dedicated parents and teachers actively concerned about local education issues. PGCABS had approached the PGCPS budget office with the idea of creating a public forum where community members could ask questions. The office agreed and saw the event as an opportunity to make the budget process more transparent and understandable to people.

Before the Q&A session, John Pfister, director of budget and management services in PGCPS, gave an hour-long presentation in which he outlined the priorities of Kevin M. Maxwell, who is chief executive officer of PGCPS.

The Q&A session drew around 25 people after being rescheduled due to the blizzard. Pfister distributed a handout with answers to questions that members of the community submitted prior to the event.

The proposed FY17 budget is \$2.02 billion, which is \$182.2 million more than the FY16 budget. \$128 million of that increase will come from the county’s budget, according to Pfister’s presentation.

The increased budget proposes funding for the expansion of pre-K and the hiring of 16 new pre-K teachers. The board is also proposing increases of \$5.6 million for literacy and numeracy programs, \$4.8 million for professional development of teachers, \$1.1 million for parent assistance and \$2.8 million for reducing class sizes in the early grades.

There was a discussion on how to measure the outcomes of the budget’s proposed initiatives. Pfister mentioned that the office

will be looking into new software that can determine which programs are delivering the most benefits per dollar spent.

There will also be an increase in technology expenditures, which will ensure that all schools have the same resources and capabilities, Pfister said. One of the goals is to make all the standardized assessment tests computer-based. This topic elicited some concerns.

“It’s just a challenge because a lot of our kids don’t have a computer at home so the school system has to teach these kids how to use a computer before they can take the test,” a member of the audience said.

Another component of the new budget is a program called Parent University, which aims to train parents and teach them the skills they need in order to support their children in the classroom.

Greenbelt’s representative to the school board, Lupi Quinteros-Grady attended the meeting. “We know about the need of trying to engage our parents, trying to inform them and trying to get parents to be involved in the process and being active with their own children,” she said. “The Parent University is looking to add capacity with that in mind.”

Tommi Makila, PGCABS advocate and parent of an 8th grader, was one of the organizers of the event. He is concerned with how the money is being allocated and with expensive standardized test practices.

“I would really like to see as much money as possible go into the schools and the classrooms. If I had one priority, it would be to try to find ways to reduce what we put in central administration,” Makila said.

The budget is expected to go to the school board for approval on February 25. Once approved by the Board of Education, the budget will be sent to the county council.

Gabriela Martinez is a graduate student in journalism at the University of Maryland.

Red Cross Needs Blood and Platelet Donations

The American Red Cross has an emergency need for blood and platelet donors. Severe winter weather since January 1 has forced the cancellation of more than 300 blood drives across 20 states, resulting in more than 9,500 donations uncollected, further depleting an already low winter supply. Blood donation appointments can be quickly and easily scheduled by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

“Blood products are being delivered to hospitals as quickly as donations are coming in,” said Nick Gehrig, communications director, Red Cross Blood Services. “Eligible donors are urged to make an appointment now to give blood or platelets as soon as possible and help ensure blood products are available for patients.”

The Red Cross must collect approximately 14,000 blood and platelet donations every day for

the patients at about 2,600 hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide. Blood and platelets are needed to respond to patient emergencies, including accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease.

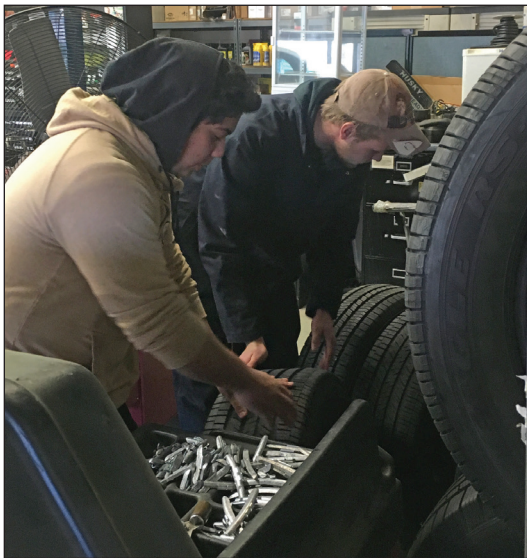
A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

For more information, visit redcross.org or Twitter at @RedCross.



Two Greenbelt Public Works Interns Excited to Learn Mechanics Trade

by Erin Josephitis



Adrian Santiago and Devan Martin work with tires.

PHOTO BY ERIN JOSEPHITIS

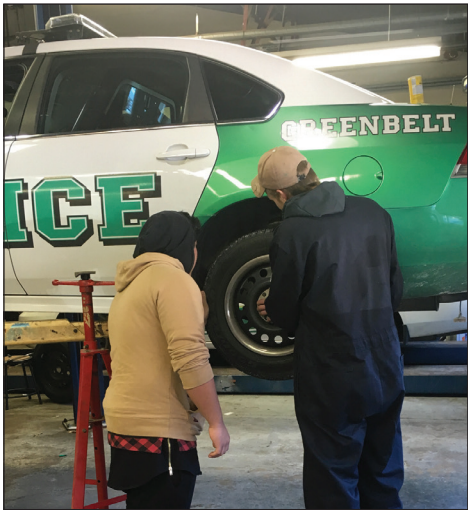
One goal of the Greenbelt Public Works Department is to support and maintain all city facilities and vehicles. One way Public Works strives to achieve this goal is by providing career training for mechanic interns from the Pathways School. This year marks the fourth year of the intern program. The ongoing relationship between Public Works and the school offers valuable community services and educational experiences for the interns.

Two students, Devan Martin and Adrian Santiago, are the newest mechanic interns at Public Works. Both said they desired to

become mechanics since their earliest memories. When asked what interested them about becoming a mechanic, Sanago recalled fond memories of working on his uncle’s Nissan. Martin echoed a similar desire to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, who is a mechanic. The internship is a natural stepping stone to launch their careers.

During the first two weeks of the internship, the two have performed hands-on vehicle maintenance by balancing tires and changing oil of police cars and snow removal trucks. They also learned how to use a new tool, an impact wrench. Martin and Sanago agreed that their favorite part of the internship has been the opportunity to ask questions of the knowledgeable staff at Public Works.

The need for mechanics cannot be understated. Performing regular maintenance on vehicles increases driving safety, improves vehicle performance and reduces pollution. In addition, the internship has provided valuable training that will positively transfer into future careers. This on-the-job experience also contributes to the likelihood of their future success by helping develop the social skills needed to be successful in the workplace. Public Works is proud to offer free career training for qualified participants interested in learning about mechanics, geographic information systems, zero waste and more.



Adrian Santiago (left) and Devan Marin (right) work on a police vehicle.

PHOTO BY ERIN JOSEPHITIS

Call for Veteran Artists For Upcoming Exhibit

Veteran artists are invited to participate in the upcoming The Art of Freedom: War, Peace and Everything in Between exhibit at the Brentwood Arts Exchange. Veterans and the military community should use the creative process to promote healing and provide insight into understanding the transition from military to civilian life. The call is open to all veterans and active duty members of all branches of service who reside or are deployed in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. The application deadline is February 27.

Curators for the exhibition will select artworks for inclusion based on artistic merit, relevance to the exhibition theme and suitability for display in the exhibition space. The Sports and Learning Center Gallery is a public space, open to all audiences and welcomes a large number of visitors of all ages.

For additional information, contact Phil Davis, Director, Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722, or 301-277-2863, email phil.davis@pgparks.com.

UMD Holds Free Kreativty Night

The Kreativty Open Mic Night will be held on Friday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cafritz Foundation Theatre of The Clarice.

Join the Kreators of the Kreativty Diversity Troupe for a free open mic night, full of music, dance and spoken word. Show up, sign up to perform or just take a seat and enjoy the show.

Botanic Garden Holds Black History Talk

On Friday, February 12 from noon to 1 p.m., the U.S. Botanic Garden will host a free lecture, A Botanical Walk Through Black History, by Kobinah Abdul-Salim, Ph.D., Department of Biology, Medgar Evers College (City University of New York).

In this presentation, Abdul-Salim will examine how the histories of the black presence in the Western Hemisphere are intimately linked to the uses and study of plants and plant-based resources. He will discuss tradition and indigenous botanical knowledge and its impact in the development of commerce and industry and move through modern-day botanical science and conservation. Note that pre-registration is required; visit usbg.gov to register.

Brentwood Offers Valentine Workshop

A free Valentine Shrinky-Dink workshop will be offered at the Brentwood Arts Center on Saturday, February 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. The DIY arts and crafts icon from the 80s is back, and nothing says “love” like a hand-made, pre-shrunk Valentine. Families are invited to create beautiful jewelry, key chains and other Valentine’s Day gifts for their loved ones.

Children will receive their first two sheets of blank Shrinky-Dinks free, additional sheets will be available for a small fee.

Call 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

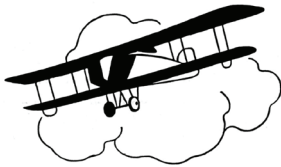
Harmony Hall Holds Black History Program

A multi-media program, Standing on the Shoulders of Our Ancestors, will be given on Wednesday, February 17 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Nu World Art Ensemble shares the stories and rich cultural contributions of Africans and African Americans through song, dance and theatre. In doing so, they convey terrible struggles and powerful triumphs throughout history. There is a small fee.

This program will be held at the Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center in Fort Washington. Call 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

Tour of African American Aviators

An African-American aviators tour will be held on Saturday, February 13 at 1 p.m. at the College Park Aviation Museum. This special tour will tell about some of Prince George’s County’s African Americans in aviation history. Learn about pilots who gained national and local fame by taking to the sky. The tour is free with museum admission. Call 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.



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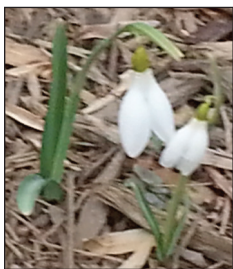
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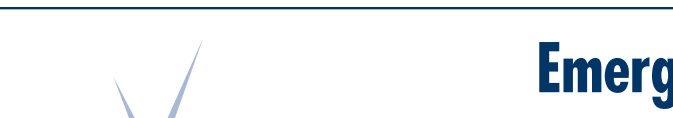




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